

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently amended) A computer implemented method comprising:

sending to a manufacturer a customer request for assembly instructions for a grouping of components, where sending to the manufacturer includes scanning bar-code information from the grouping of components, grouping the bar-code information, and generating the customer request for assembly instructions based on the grouped bar-code information and on specifications defined by the manufacturer; and

initiating a component grouping application software at the location where the components are received, the software performing the grouping;

sending the grouped bar-code information to a customer server, the customer server also generating the request; and

presenting to assemblers a set of assembly instructions ~~which are that is~~ customized and specific to ~~said the~~ grouping of components; ~~wherein said customer and said manufacturer are different entities.~~

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein presenting includes:
receiving said set of assembly instructions from said manufacturer.

4. (Original) A method according to claim 3 wherein presenting further includes:
formatting said received set of assembly instructions such that they are in a format
utilizable by said assemblers.

5. (Original) A method according to claim 4 wherein presenting further includes:
printing out said formatted set of assembly instructions for said assemblers.

6. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising:
waiting to receive said set of assembly instructions from said manufacturer prior to
assembling of said group of components.

7. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising:
assembling said group of components using said set of assembly instructions.

8. (Original) A method according to claim 1 further comprising:
replying to said customer request by sending said customized set of assembly instructions
to said customer.

9. (Original) A method according to claim 8 wherein replying includes:
receiving said request for assembly instructions from said customer;
formulating a query for a knowledge base, said query based upon the content of said
request; and
retrieving from said knowledge base said customized set of assembly instructions, said set
formed in response to said query.

10. (Original) A method according to claim 9 wherein said replying further includes:
formatting said retrieved customized set of instructions into a network-ready message.

11. (Canceled)

12. (Original) A method according to claim 1 wherein said manufacturer and said
customer communicate over a communications network.

13. (Previously presented) A system comprising:
an information device utilized by an assembler of a group of components, said device
configured to group bar-code information scanned from said components;
a customer server coupled to said information device over a network, said server
configured to send a request for assembly instructions, said request based on said grouped bar-
code information; and
a manufacturer server able to communicate with said customer server, said manufacturer
server replying to said request with a set of customized assembly instructions, said instructions
specific to said group of components represented in said request.

14. (Original) A system according to claim 13 wherein said customer server receives
said reply from said manufacturer server, said customer server further configured to present to
said assembler said set of customized assembly instructions in a utilizable format.

15. (Previously presented) A system according to claim 13 further comprising:

a knowledge base coupled to said manufacturer server, said knowledge configured to provide said set of customized assembly instructions in response to receiving a query from said manufacturer server.

16. (Original) A system according to claim 15 wherein said query is formulated by said manufacturer server based upon said request from said customer server.

17. (Original) A system according to claim 13 wherein said information device is a personal computer.

18. (Original) A system according to claim 13 wherein said information device is a personal digital assistant.

19. (Original) A system according to claim 13 wherein said manufacturer server and said customer server are connected via a network.

20. (Currently Amended) An article comprising a computer readable medium having instructions stored thereon which when executed cause:

sending to a manufacturer a customer request for assembly instructions for a grouping of components, where sending to the manufacturer includes scanning bar-code information from the grouping of components, grouping the bar-code information, and generating the customer request for assembly instructions based on the grouped bar-code information and on specifications defined by the manufacturer;~~and~~

initiating a component grouping application software at the location where the components are received, the software performing the grouping;
sending the grouped bar-code information to a customer server, the customer server also generating the request; and
presenting to assemblers a set of assembly instructions ~~which are~~ that is customized and specific to ~~said the~~ grouping of components; ~~wherein said customer and said manufacturer are different entities.~~

21. (Canceled)

22. (Original) An article according to claim 20 wherein presenting includes:
receiving said set of assembly instructions from said manufacturer.

23. (Original) An article according to claim 22 wherein presenting further includes:
formatting said received set of assembly instructions such that they are in a format
utilizable by said assemblers.

24. (Original) An article according to claim 23 wherein presenting further includes:
printing out said formatted set of assembly instructions for said assemblers.

25. (Original) An article according to claim 20 further causing:
waiting to receive said set of assembly instructions from said manufacturer prior to
assembling of said group of components.

26. (Original) An article according to claim 20 further causing:
assembling said group of components using said set of assembly instructions.

27. (Original) An article according to claim 20 further causing:
replying to said customer request by sending said customized set of assembly instructions
to said customer.

28. (Original) An article according to claim 27 wherein replying includes:
receiving said request for assembly instructions from said customer;
formulating a query for a knowledge base, said query based upon the content of said
request; and
retrieving from said knowledge base said customized set of assembly instructions, said set
formed in response to said query.

29. (Original) An article according to claim 28 wherein said replying further includes:
formatting said retrieved customized set of instructions into a network-ready message.

30. (Canceled)